



Aurelia Alexandra Dzikas Bremer 1941 - 2022

Aurelia Alexandra Dzikas Bremer, known to her friends as Aurie, passed away after a short illness on September 14, 2022. Born September 25, 1941 at Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago, IL to Veronica and Alexander Dzikas, she was raised in a simple manner with church on Sundays but no tv to watch. She often spoke of the chickens and Chihuahuas that her family raised during her youth, and of her maternal grandfather who raised horseradish. The description of the odor from horseradish processing was unforgettable!

After graduating from Mount Assisi Academy, she went to nursing school at Little Company of Mary Nursing School. While many people stay in the same place to begin their career, Aurie wanted to serve her country and see the world. She was commissioned into the Air Force on October 16, 1964. She was stationed at Randall AFB, San Antonio, TX; Webb AFB, Big Spring, Tx; Goose Bay Air Base, Goose Bay, Labrador; Seymour Johnson AFB, Goldsboro, NC. It was at Webb AFB that Aurie would meet the man that would become her husband and partner for 55 years. She would insist that all fighter pilots were just like kindergarteners. We are not sure if she made this determination before or after she met John, a fighter pilot.

They married on April 1, 1967 at Davis Monthan AFB in Tucson, AZ. Aurie was the higher ranking officer at the time and the saying was that she remained that way the rest of her life. The Vietnam War would separate them for the birth of their first child, Susan little more than a year later. It was at this point that Aurie left the military service to raise their family and travel the world with her husband. Their son John would follow while stationed at Kadena AFB in Okinawa. As the wife of a military pilot, Aurie possessed the incredible strength not only to raise her family but have a successful and loving marriage.

Aurie was a strong educational advocate for both of her children and for herself. Although she already possessed a nursing degree, Aurie went back to school while the family was stationed in Germany and completed her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland in 1977. Her husband at one point was her instructor for a calculus class, Aurie was not a fan of either the class or the instructor. She did pass the class.

Once stateside, Aurie enrolled her children in competitive swimming and became a swim mom. She became known as Butterfly's Mom due to her son's talent in the butterfly. She attended many outdoor swim-meets where she would obtain her tan strip from the edge of her shorts to the top of her knees.

As children are wont to do, the children grew up and moved out. Aurie was then to discover her greatest role yet. Grandmother. Susan gave her two grandchildren, Alex and Jessica and John gave her the grand-puppies, Alexandra (yes named after Aurie), Fritz and now Veronica. She lived for her all of her grandchildren often babysitting and spending time with them. In 2021, Jessica would add another title to Aurie of Great-Grandmother to Emerson.

Her affinity for hats and shoes were legendary within our family. She was often referred to as "Imelda Marcos" for the number of shoes she possessed. Aurie loved shopping and hunting for the best bargain. Every six months, John ensured that she would donate enough so that she had room for the new items she would find.

She requested of John after leaving the service that they go somewhere warm as she hated the cold of the Midwest growing up. In 1988, they made the move to Orlando, Florida for his post-military job. Once residing in Orlando, she became a member of the Lockheed Martin wives' community group, known as REOS and the West Orange Women, often serving in leadership positions, anything from Secretary to President. At her passing she was serving as an advisor to the board of the West Orange Women.

Her final move would be to Clermont in 1998. With the move, they bought Aurie's dream house going so far as to make changes to an existing floorplan so that it was exactly how she wanted. In her daily life, one of her favorite activities was to spend time watching Jeopardy with her family. If you knew her well, you knew not to call or otherwise disturb her during Jeopardy. It was her time and interruptions were not well received. She hosted many events including many holidays filled with laughter and love.

Her kindness and compassion were well known and led to her expanding the family's holiday celebrations to include anyone who needed a place to celebrate. In doing so she became the Florida mom to many that were far from home. She was also an avid supporter of several animal organizations such as Pug Rescue of Florida. She loved all animals but had a particular soft spot for pugs.

She was beloved in all aspects in her life. She is survived by her husband - John, her sister - Judy, children- Susan and John, grandchildren – Alex and Jessica, great grandchild Emerson, and grand-puppies - Fritz and Veronica. Aurie will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved her.